

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP
Jason J. Kim (SBN 190246)
Jason Yoon (SBN 306137)
Kevin Hong (SBN 299040)
101 S. Western Ave., Second Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Telephone: (213) 252-8008
Facsimile: (213) 252-8009
cm@SoCalEAG.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
DEONDRE RAGLIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEONDRE RAGLIN,
Plaintiff,
vs.

FRANK AHN D/B/A COUPLES MEGA
OUTLET; BRENT ALAN HEDGE COCK,
AS TRUSTEE OF THE RICHARD D.
HEDGE COCK AND ROSEMARY
HEDGE COCK 2003 FAMILY TRUST;
and DOES 1 to 10.

Defendants.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
RELIEF AND DAMAGES FOR DENIAL
OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF A DISABLED
PERSON IN VIOLATIONS OF**

1. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 42 U.S.C. §12131 et seq.;
2. CALIFORNIA'S UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT;
3. CALIFORNIA'S DISABLED PERSONS ACT;
4. CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE;
5. NEGLIGENCE

Plaintiff DEONDRE RAGLIN (“Plaintiff”) complains of Defendants FRANK AHN D/B/A COUPLES MEGA OUTLET; BRENT ALAN HEDGEBOCK, AS

1 TRUSTEE OF THE RICHARD D. HEDGEBOCK AND ROSEMARY HEDGEBOCK
2 2003 FAMILY TRUST; and DOES 1 to 10 (“Defendants”) and alleges as follows:

3 **PARTIES**

4 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with a physical disability. Plaintiff suffers
5 from paraplegia due to T8 spinal cord injury and is substantially limited in his ability to
6 walk. Plaintiff requires the use of a wheelchair at all times when traveling in public.

7 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners,
8 business operators, lessors and/or lessees of the real property for an adult entertainment
9 store (“Business”) located at or about 1820 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, California.

10 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or
11 otherwise of Defendant DOES 1 through 10, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiff,
12 who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of
13 Court to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities have been
14 ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, based thereon, alleges that each such
15 fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner, and therefore, liable to
16 Plaintiff for the acts herein alleged.

17 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant
18 times, each of the Defendants was the agent, employee, or alter-ego of each of the other
19 Defendants, and/or was acting in concert with each of the other Defendants, and in doing
20 the things alleged herein was acting with the knowledge and consent of the other
21 Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency or employment relationship.

22 5. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or
23 failure to act by a defendant or Defendants, such allegations and references shall also be
24 deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly
25 and severally.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1331 and 1343 for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 USC §12101, *et seq.*).

7. Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, attendant and related causes of action, arising from the same nucleus of operating facts, are also brought under California law, including, but not limited to, violations of California Civil Code §§51, 51.5, 52(a), 52.1, 54, 54., 54.3 and 55.

8. Plaintiff's claims are authorized by 28 USC §§ 2201 and 2202.

9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1331(b). The real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, Los Angeles County, California, and that all actions complained of herein take place in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. In or about August of 2023, Plaintiff went to the Business.

11. The Business is an adult entertainment store business establishment, open to the public, and is a place of public accommodation that affects commerce through its operation. Defendants provide parking spaces for customers.

12. While attempting to enter the Business during each visit, Plaintiff personally encountered a number of barriers that interfered with his ability to use and enjoy the goods, services, privileges, and accommodations offered at the Business.

13. To the extent of Plaintiff's personal knowledge, the barriers at the Business included, but were not limited to, the following:

a. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to post required signage such as “Minimum Fine \$250” and “Unauthorized Parking.”

b. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants

failed to provide proper van accessible space designated for the persons with disabilities as there were no “NO PARKING” markings painted on the surface of the access aisle.

- c. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state standards. Defendants failed to maintain the mark on the space with the International Symbol of Accessibility.
- d. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state standards. Defendants failed to maintain the paint on the ground as required.
- e. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to provide an access aisle with level surface slope.

14. These barriers and conditions denied Plaintiff the full and equal access to the Business and caused Plaintiff difficulty and frustration. Plaintiff wishes to return and patronize the Business; however, Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Business because his knowledge of these violations prevents him from returning until the barriers are removed.

15. Based on the violations, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that there are additional barriers to accessibility at the Business after further site inspection. Plaintiff seeks to have all barriers related to his disability remedied. *See Doran v. 7-Eleven, Inc.* 524 F.3d 1034 (9th Cir. 2008).

16. In addition, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendants knew that particular barriers render the Business inaccessible, violate state and federal law, and interfere with access for the physically disabled.

17. At all relevant times, Defendants had and still have control and dominion over the conditions at this location and had and still have the financial resources to

1 remove these barriers without much difficulty or expenses to make the Business
2 accessible to the physically disabled in compliance with ADDAG and Title 24
3 regulations. Defendants have not removed such barriers and have not modified the
4 Business to conform to accessibility regulations.

5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

7 18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
8 paragraphs in this complaint.

9 19. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), no individual
10 shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of
11 the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of
12 public accommodation by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place
13 of public accommodation. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

14 20. Discrimination, *inter alia*, includes:

15 a. A failure to make reasonable modification in policies, practices, or
16 procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such
17 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations
18 to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that
19 making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of
20 such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
21 accommodations. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).

22 b. A failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no
23 individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or
24 otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the
25 absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can
26 demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the
27 nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or

1 accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden. 42
2 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii).

3 c. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers
4 that are structural in nature, in existing facilities, and transportation
5 barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used by an
6 establishment for transporting individuals (not including barriers that
7 can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail
8 passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift), where
9 such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

10 d. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum
11 extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily
12 accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including
13 individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum
14 extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the
15 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered
16 area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with
17 disabilities where such alterations to the path or travel or the
18 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area
19 are not disproportionate to the overall alterations in terms of cost and
20 scope. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

21 21. Where parking spaces are provided, accessible parking spaces shall be
22 provided. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5); 2010 ADA Standards § 208. One in every
23 eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, shall be served by an access aisle 96 in
24 (2440 mm) wide minimum and shall be designated “van accessible.” 1991 ADA
25 Standards § 4.1.2(5)(b). For every six or fraction of six parking spaces, at least one shall
26 be a van accessible parking space. 2010 ADA Standards § 208.2.4.

27 22. Under the ADA, the method and color of marking are to be addressed by
28 State or local laws or regulations. See 36 C.F.R., Part 1191. Under the California

1 Building Code (“CBC”), the parking space identification signs shall include the
2 International Symbol of Accessibility. Parking identification signs shall be reflectorized
3 with a minimum area of 70 square inches. Additional language or an additional sign
4 below the International Symbol of Accessibility shall state “Minimum Fine \$250.” A
5 parking space identification sign shall be permanently posted immediately adjacent and
6 visible from each parking space, shall be located with its centerline a maximum of 12
7 inches from the centerline of the parking space and may be posted on a wall at the
8 interior end of the parking space. See CBC § 11B-502.6, et seq.

9 23. Moreover, an additional sign shall be posted either in a conspicuous place at
10 each entrance to an off-street parking facility or immediately adjacent to on-site
11 accessible parking and visible from each parking space. The additional sign shall not be
12 less than 17 inches wide by 22 inches high. The additional sign shall clearly state in
13 letters with a minimum height of 1 inch the following: “Unauthorized vehicles parked in
14 designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license
15 plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed always at the owner’s expense...”
16 See CBC § 11B-502.8, et seq.

17 24. Here, Defendants failed to provide the signs stating, “Minimum Fine \$250”
18 and “Van Accessible.”

19 25. For the parking spaces, access aisles shall be marked with a blue painted
20 borderline around their perimeter. The area within the blue borderlines shall be marked
21 with hatched lines a maximum of 36 inches (914 mm) on center in a color contrasting
22 with that of the aisle surface, preferably blue or white. The words "NO PARKING" shall
23 be painted on the surface within each access aisle in white letters a minimum of 12 inches
24 (305 mm) in height and located to be visible from the adjacent vehicular way. CBC §
25 11B-502.3.3.

26 26. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no
27 “NO PARKING” markings painted on the parking surface. Additionally, the blue
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1 hatched lines, which indicate the presence of the access aisle, were severely deteriorated,
2 hindering visibility.

3 27. The surface of each accessible car and van space shall have surface
4 identification complying with either of the following options: The outline of a profile
5 view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background a minimum 36" wide
6 by 36" high (914 mm x 914 mm). The centerline of the profile view shall be a maximum
7 of 6 inches (152 mm) from the centerline of the parking space, its sides parallel to the
8 length of the parking space and its lower side or corner aligned with the end of the
9 parking space length or by outlining or painting the parking space in blue and outlining
10 on the ground in white or a suitable contrasting color a profile view of a wheel chair with
11 occupant. See CBC § 11B-502.6.4, et seq.

12 28. Here, Defendants failed to maintain the paint of the International Symbol of
13 Accessibility on the surface as required.

14 29. Under the 1991 Standards, parking spaces and access aisles must be level
15 with surface slopes not exceeding 1:50 (2%) in all directions. 1991 Standards § 4.6.2.
16 Accessible parking spaces shall be at least 96 in (2440 mm) wide. Parking access aisles
17 shall be part of an accessible route to the building or facility entrance and shall comply
18 with 4.3. Two accessible parking spaces may share a common access aisle. Parked
19 vehicle overhangs shall not reduce the clear width of an accessible route. Parking spaces
20 and access aisles shall be level with surface slopes not exceeding 1:50 (2%) in all
21 directions. 1991 Standards § 4.6.3.

22 30. Here, the access aisle is not level with the parking spaces. Under the 2010
23 Standards, access aisles shall be at the same level as the parking spaces they serve.
24 Changes in level are not permitted. 2010 Standards § 502.4. "Access aisles are required
25 to be nearly level in all directions to provide a surface for transfer to and from vehicles."
26 2010 Standards § 502.4 Advisory. Id. No more than a 1:48 slope is permitted.

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31. A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).

32. By failing to maintain the facility to be readily accessible and usable by Plaintiff, Defendants are in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and its related regulations.

33. The Business has denied and continues to deny full and equal access to Plaintiff and to other people with disabilities. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be discriminated against due to the lack of accessible facilities, and therefore, seeks injunctive relief to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

35. California Civil Code § 51 states, “All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever.”

36. California Civil Code § 52 states, “Whoever denies, aids or incites a denial, or make any discrimination or distinction contrary to Section 51, 515, or 51.6, is liable for each and every offense for the actual damages, and any amount that may be determined by a jury, or a court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damage but in no case less than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and any attorney’s fees that may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied the rights provided in Section 51, 51.5, or 51.6.

37. California Civil Code § 51(f) specifies, “a violation of the right of any individual under federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) shall also constitute a violation of this section.”

38. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial of full and equal accommodation, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services by physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code §§ 51 and 52. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code §§ 51 and 52.

39. The violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act caused Plaintiff to experience difficulty, discomfort, or embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for statutory damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA DISABLED PERSONS ACT

40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

41. California Civil Code § 54.1(a) states, “Individuals with disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to accommodations, advantages, facilities, medical facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and physicians’ offices, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motorbuses, streetcars, boats, or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation (whether private, public, franchised, licensed, contracted, or otherwise provided), telephone facilities, adoption agencies, private schools, hotels, loading places, places of public accommodations, amusement, or resort, and other places in which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, or state or federal regulation, and applicable alike to all persons.

42. California Civil Code § 54.3(a) states, “Any person or persons, firm or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of public facilities as specified in Sections 54 and 54.1 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an

1 individual with a disability under Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2 is liable for each offense for
2 the actual damages, and any amount as may be determined by a jury, or a court sitting
3 without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no
4 case less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and any attorney's fees that may be
5 determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied the rights
6 provided in Section 54, 54.1, and 54.2.

7 43. California Civil Code § 54(d) specifies, "a violation of the right of an
8 individual under Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) also
9 constitute a violation of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to limit
10 the access of any person in violation of that act.

11 44. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial
12 of full and equal accommodation, advantages, and facilities by physically disabled
13 persons within the meaning of California Civil Code § 54. Defendants have
14 discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code § 54.

15 45. The violations of the California Disabled Persons Act caused Plaintiff to
16 experience difficulty, discomfort, and embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for
17 statutory damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 19955, et seq.

20 46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
21 paragraphs in this complaint.

22 47. Plaintiff and other similar physically disabled persons who require the use of
23 a wheelchair are unable to use public facilities on a "full and equal" basis unless each
24 such facility is in compliance with the provisions of California Health & Safety Code §
25 19955 et seq. Plaintiff is a member of the public whose rights are protected by the
26 provisions of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.

27 48. The purpose of California Health & Safety Code § 1995 et seq. is to ensure
28 that public accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds

1 adhere to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4450) of Division 5 of
2 Title 1 of the Government Code. The code relating to such public accommodations also
3 require that “when sanitary facilities are made available for the public, clients, or
4 employees in these stations, centers, or buildings, they shall be made available for
5 persons with disabilities.

6 49. Title II of the ADA holds as a “general rule” that no individual shall be
7 discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods
8 (or use), services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who
9 owns, operates, or leases a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).
10 Further, each and every violation of the ADA also constitutes a separate and distinct
11 violation of California Civil Code §§ 54(c) and 54.1(d), thus independently justifying an
12 award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not
13 limited to Civil Code § 54.3 and Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

14 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **NEGLIGENCE**

16 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
17 paragraphs in this complaint.

18 51. Defendants have a general duty and a duty under the ADA, Unruh Civil
19 Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act to provide safe and accessible facilities
20 to the Plaintiff.

21 52. Defendants breached their duty of care by violating the provisions of ADA,
22 Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act.

23 53. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ negligent conduct, Plaintiff
24 has suffered damages.

25 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for relief and judgment against
27 Defendants as follows:

- 1 1. For preliminary and permanent injunction directing Defendants to comply
- 2 with the Americans with Disability Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;
- 3 2. Award of all appropriate damages, including but not limited to statutory
- 4 damages, general damages and treble damages in amounts, according to proof;
- 5 3. Award of all reasonable restitution for Defendants' unfair competition
- 6 practices;
- 7 4. Reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit in this
- 8 action;
- 9 5. Prejudgment interest pursuant to California Civil Code § 3291; and
- 10 6. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: November 3, 2023

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP

By: /s/ Jason J. Kim
Jason J. Kim, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff